

New independent Claim 21 is directed to a method of winterizing a landscape irrigation sprinkler system which includes the steps of detecting in the sprinklers whether pressurized compressible fluid or a mixture of pressurized compressible fluid and water is entering the sprinklers and preventing over-spinning of the turbine in each of the sprinklers upon such detection. Nothing in the prior art discloses or suggests a similar winterizing method. Applicants were first to recognize the problem of damage to rotor-type sprinklers that occurs during winterization and to provide a solution to that problem.

New independent Claim 31 is an alternate claim to applicants' sprinkler which requires "a speed control mechanism mounted in the riser and including a valve that limits the rotational speed of the turbine when the incoming fluid is compressed air, but has substantially no effect on the rotational speed when the incoming fluid is water." The prior art cited by the examiner does not disclose or suggest such a sprinkler.

Similarly, independent Claim 32 is directed to a sprinkler that includes "a speed control mechanism mounted in the housing that limits the rotational speed of the turbine when the incoming fluid is compressed air, but has substantially no effect on the rotational speed when the incoming fluid is water." Again, the prior art cited by the examiner neither shows nor suggests such a sprinkler.

Independent Claim 33 claims a pop-up rotor type sprinkler, including a riser mounted within an outer housing for telescopic movement by a turbine mounted within the riser, a head rotatably mounted at the upper end of the riser, and a drive mechanism connecting the turbine to the head for rotating the head. Claim 33 further calls for "an over-spin mechanism mounted in the riser and operatively associated with the turbine to prevent over-spinning of the turbine when compressed air is fed to the inlet of the outer housing during winterizing but otherwise permitting the turbine to spin in a normal range of rotational speed during normal operation of the sprinkler when substantially entirely water is fed to the inlet of the housing at a pressure within a nominal

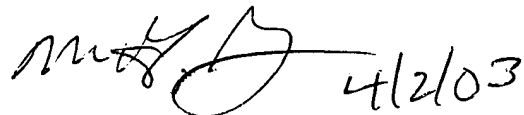
order pressure range.” Again, none of the prior art cited by the examiner, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a rotor type sprinkler.

Independent Claim 36 is a more detailed claim similar to Claim 33 but adding additional details regarding the gear train reduction, reversing mechanism and arc adjustment mechanism. Again, none of the prior art cited by the examiner, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a sprinkler with these features.

Accordingly, it is believed that new Claims 21-40 are allowable and notification to this effect is solicited. Authorization is given to charge deposit account no. 50-0626 for \$762 to cover the fee required for five (5) independent claims in excess of three (3), and twenty (19) claims in excess of twenty. Authorization is also given to charge any further claim fees required in connection with this amendment.

It is noted that formal drawings in substitution for the informal drawings originally filed with this application were mailed to the USPTO on March 10, 2003. For the convenience of the examiner, copies of these formal drawings are transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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